--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

--1. Field of The Invention--.

Between lines 7 and 8, insert:

--2. Description of the Related Art--.

Page 2, between lines 3 and 4, insert the heading:

--OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION--.

Between lines 33 and 34, insert the heading:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 3, between lines 32 and 33, insert the heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.

Page 4, between lines 19 and 20, insert the heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Copies of pages 1-6 showing the amendments as entered on pages 1-4 are enclosed.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

INTEGRAL LENS ATTACHMENT, SUNSHADE AND CAMERA LENS COVER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a United States filing from PCT Appl. Ser. No. PCT/US02/31097, filed September 27, 2002, which claims priority from United States Provisional Application No. 60373170, filed April 16, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention generally relates to a camera lens attachment, and more particularly to a lens attachment assembly which provides for the convenient use and transport of filters, lens assemblies, protective lens covers, and variable position sunshades.

2. Description of the Related Art

Most cameras in use today, whether video or still, provide as part of their lens assembly, a threaded, cylindrical attachment ring at the terminus of the lens assembly, to allow for the attachment of filters, additional lens, protective lens covers, sunshades, and the like.

One of the primary difficulties inherent with this conventional design is that a camera user must remove and store or carry the filter, lens, or other such attachment when not in use. This repeated mounting and dismounting of accessories is inconvenient and time consuming.

Frequently, in the course of filming or taking pictures, a photographer will find himself in need of a sunshade to block the

sun or other light from directly impinging upon the lens. To be truly effective, a sunshade must be capable of being positioned at a desired angle and orientation respective to the lens. The lens attachment of the present invention provides for a sunshade to be positioned selectively about the perimeter of the lens, and at the desired angle relative to the lens.

When finished filming, the photographer needs to use a lens cover to protect the lens of the camera from damage and dirt. This array of lens covers, sunshades, lens attachments, filters, and the like, results in the photographer being burdened with carrying and storing a veritable collection of attachments.

The lens attachment of the present invention provides a combination of these multiple elements in a convenient arrangement which can be removably coupled to the camera body and unfolded in various positions when a particular element is needed for use.

It will be understood that the invention is equally applicable to view cameras and video camcorders. Whenever either term is used herein, it is intended to encompass the other.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of this invention to provide an improved camera lens attachment which will overcome the numerous disadvantages inherent in prior camera attachment systems, and all the while providing the photographer with quick and convenient access to his camera lens.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide easy and rapid installation or removal of a desired lens attachment. Such lens attachment could be a wide angle adapter, a zoom-through converter, a close-focus achromatic diopter, or other

of a variety of well-known lens attachments.

It is also an object of the present invention to enable the photographer to easily apply or remove a protective lens cover, without necessitating the photographer to carry a separate camera case to store the lens cover.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide the photographer with a sunshade which can be used to shield the lens from the sun or other light source. Furthermore, this sunshade is provided with the convenient ability to be rotated about the axis of the lens to any desired position around the perimeter of the lens. In addition, the sunshade is able to be positioned at a variety of angles in order to enhance its abilities and function.

In an alternate configuration, the lens attachment of the present invention may be fitted with additional sunshade components. Such sunshades may be coupled to the attachment frame in order to permit rotation and adjustment for any situation.

Additional objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent as the description proceeds.

The integral lens attachment device of the present invention comprises three primary elements. First, a frame element, incorporating a threaded adapter ring for mounting to the lens of a video or still camera. Second, a lens housing for providing an additional lens, filter, or other such attachment. And third, a cover component which serves dual function as both a protective lens cover and a variable position sunshade.

The lens housing and the cover component are hinged to the rim of the frame element. Additional sunshade components could also be separately hinged to the frame at various positions. The

device cover and lens housing may be pivotably mounted to the rim of the frame element with hinges.

The frame element may be attached to the end of a camera lens by the threaded adapter ring. The position of the frame relative to the adapter ring is adjustable. The frame element may be rotated to transport the lens cover and sunshades to another position around the periphery of the lens.

The frame element may be provided with at least one locking notch on its periphery. Such notches enable the frame to securely lock onto the camera lens adaptor ring.

In another configuration of the present invention, small magnets may be added at various positions along the perimeters of the device cover (or sunshade), the frame element, and the lens housing. The presence of such magnets will aid in providing the ability for the sunshade and lens housing to remain in the desired opened or closed position.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the additional sunshade components, that may be hinged to the assembly, may be outfitted with panels that may be extended in order to increase the effective size and coverage of the sunshades. Such panels may be coupled to the sunshades to make them extendable. The panels may be connected to the sunshades by way of pivot pins. Retaining pins may protrude from the sunshades through tracks in the panels in order to hold and guide the panels along their path.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A better understanding of the present invention may be realized from a consideration of the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings,

in which:

FIG. 1 is a front view of the lens attachment of the present invention, with the lens cover component in the fully closed position;

FIG. 2 is a rear view of the present invention in the closed position;

FIG. 3 is a side cutaway view of the present invention in the closed position;

FIG. 4 is a side cutaway view of the present invention with the lens housing in the closed position, and the lens cover component in the open, or sunshade, position;

FIG. 5 is a side cutaway view of the present invention with the lens housing in contact with the lens cover component in the open position; and

FIG. 6 is a side cutaway view of the present invention with the lens cover component in the open position and the lens housing in an open position located between the lens cover component and the frame element.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the present invention configured with additional sunshade components employing extendable panels for added performance.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

As can be seen in FIGS. 1-7 of the drawings, the lens